

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
5 monitoring an output of a digital video decoder
of a digital network recorder that continuously records
an input television signal to a memory and continuously
decodes and plays the input television signal having been
recorded; and
10 outputting the input television signal to a
television, in the event an output video signal is not
output from the digital video decoder, wherein the output
video signal comprises the input television signal having
been previously recorded and decoded.
15 2. The method of Claim 1 further wherein the
input television signal comprises a broadcast analog
television signal.
20 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the digital
video decoder comprises an MPEG2 video decoder.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the
outputting step comprises outputting the input television
25 signal to the television, in the event the digital
network recorder is booting up.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the
outputting step comprises outputting the input television
30 signal to the television, in the event there is an
operating system failure of the digital network recorder
such that the digital network recorder is unable to
produce the output video signal.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising receiving the input television signal into the digital network recorder.

5 7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising outputting the output video signal to the television, in the event the output video signal is output from the digital video decoder.

10 8. An RF passthrough system for a digital network recorder comprising:

 means for monitoring an output of a digital video decoder of a digital network recorder that continuously records an input television signal to a
15 memory and continuously decodes and plays the input television signal having been recorded; and

 means for outputting the input television signal to a television, in the event an output video signal is not output from the digital video decoder,
20 wherein the output video signal comprises the input television signal having been previously recorded and decoded.

 9. The system of Claim 8 wherein the means for
25 outputting comprise means for outputting the input television signal to the television, in the event the digital network recorder is booting up.

 10. The system of Claim 8 wherein the means
30 for outputting comprise means for outputting the input television signal to the television, in the event there is an operating system failure of the digital network

recorder such that the digital network recorder is unable to produce the output video signal.

11. The system of Claim 8 further comprising
5 means for outputting the output video signal to the television, in the event the output video signal is output from the digital video decoder.

12. An RF passthrough system for a digital
10 network recorder comprising:

a memory for continuously storing an input television signal as digital data;

a digital video decoder coupled to the memory
for continuously retrieving the digital data, decoding
15 the digital data and outputting an output video signal, wherein the output video signal represents the input television signal and is to be output to a television coupled to the digital network recorder; and

a switch for inputting the input television
20 signal and the output video signal, wherein the switch outputs the input television signal in the event the output video signal is not input from the digital video decoder.

25 13. The system of Claim 12 further comprising a digital video encoder coupled to the memory for receiving the input television signal and encoding the input television signal as the digital data.

30 14. The system of Claim 13 further comprising an analog to digital converter coupled to the encoder for digitizing the input television signal prior to being encoded at the encoder.

15. The system of Claim 12 further comprising
a digital to analog converter coupled to the digital
video decoder and the switch for converting the output
video signal to analog prior to being input to the
5 switch.

16. The system of Claim 12 wherein the switch
comprises an embedded chip.

10 17. The system of Claim 16 wherein the
embedded chip comprises a programmable read only memory
chip.

15 18. The system of Claim 12 wherein the switch
comprises a field effect transistor for passing
television signals.

19. The system of Claim 12 wherein the digital
video decoder comprises an MPEG2 decoder.

20 20. The system of Claim 12 wherein the memory
comprises a hard disk.

21. The system of Claim 12 further comprising
25 a media switch coupling the digital video decoder, the
memory and the switch together.